

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY

FOLLOWING IS TEXT FROM THE NIHON KEIZAI DATED DECEMBER 27,
1976: QUOTE
ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE HEADING TOWARD STARTING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH US; JAPAN WORKING TO EXTRICATE ITSELF
FROM DEPENDENCE ON EUROPE AND AMERICA FOR URANIUM ENRICH-
MENT AND RE PROCESSING

1. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONVEY TO THE US IN WRITING, EVEN
AS EARLY AS WITHIN THIS YEAR, OUR COUNTRY'S BASIC POLICY
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY TO THE EFFECT OF AIMING
AT ESTABLISHING ITS OWN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, AND REQUEST
THE US TO UNDERSTAND THIS. AS A RESULT, JAPAN-US NEGO-
TIATIONS OVER ATOMIC ENERGY WILL BE STARTED ON A FULL SCALE.
HOWEVER, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH WILL BE STARTED
IN JANUARY, MAKES IT A BASIC POLICY, FOR THE PREVENTION OF
NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, TO CHECK THE SPREAD TO VARIOUS
COUNTRIES OF RE-PROCESSING PLANTS AND ENRICHED
URANIUM PLANTS WHICH PRODUCE RAW MATERIALS OF ATOMIC
BOMS. THEREFORE, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION WILL SHOW RELUCTANCE TOWARD OUR
COUNTRY'S POLICY, AND IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT NEW
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FRICTION WILL ARISE BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE US.
WALL OF US ADMINISTRATION THICK, IN REGARD TO PREVENTION
OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

2. OUR COUNTRY HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED A NUCLEAR FUEL
CYCLE, WHICH CONSISTS OF "DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM ORE,

ENRICHMENT, ATOMIC POWER GENERATION, RE-PROCESSING, AND DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE." THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS THAT THE US SUPPLIES ENRICHED URANIUM TO OUR COUNTRY, AND THAT REPROCESSING IS ENTRUSTED TO BRITAIN. OUR COUNTRY'S ATOMIC ENERGY IS IN SUCH AN UNSTABLE STATE THAT IT WILL BECOME HELPLESS IF THE US SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM IS RESTRICTED, OR IF BRITAIN REFUSES RE-PROCESSING. THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY CIRCLES ARE NOW HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITAIN AND FRANCE AS TO NEW ENTRUSTMENT OF RE-PROCESSING. HOWEVER, THESE COUNTRIES ARE DEMANDING A SHARP RAISE OF THE ENTRUSTMENT CHARGE, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A WEAKNESS OF OUR COUNTRY.

3. IN OUR COUNTRY, TOO, THE RE-PROCESSING PLANT OF THE POWER REACTOR AND NUCLEAR FUEL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS IN TRIAL OPERATION AT PRESENT, AND IT WILL SOON BE OPERATED ON A FULL SCALE. HOWEVER, THIS PLANT IS SMALL IN SCALE, AND IT HAS NOT GONE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF A PILOT PLANT. FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES ARE PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT A "SECOND RE-PROCESSING PLANT" BY CONCENTRATING THE TOTAL POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CIRCLES. ALSO AS TO ENRICHED URANIUM, THEY ARE CHECKING INTO CONSTRUCTING A DOMESTIC ENRICHMENT PLANT. THE POLICY OF FREEING OUR COUNTRY FROM DEPENDENCE ON EUROPE AND AMERICA AND AIMING AT ESTABLISHING ITS OWN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE WAS FINALLY CONFIRMED IN THE REPORT MADE BY THE OVERALL ENERGY RESEARCH COUNCIL'S ATOMIC ENERGY DEPARTMENT ON THE 21ST, AND THUS MUTLA AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES.

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4. HOWEVER, THE US IS RECENTLY STRENGTHENING ITS "POLICY OF RESTRICTING INTERNATIONAL MOVING" OF ATOMIC ENERGY FACILITIES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AND IT IS OPPOSED TO NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES, INCLUDING JAPAN, ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLES. IN OCTOBER, PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING NEW POLICY: "WE WILL REQUEST VARIOUS COUNTRIES NOT TO CARRY OUT RE-PROCESSING, (CONSTRUCTION OF ENRICHMENT FACILITIES), AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF TECHNIQUES AT LEAST FOR THREE YEARS." ON THE BASIS OF THIS POLICY, THE US "TEMPORARILY STOPPED" THE TRANSPORTATION BY SPECIAL SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR FUEL FROM JAPAN TO BRITAIN FOR THE ENTRUSTMENT OF RE-PROCESSING.

5. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS ANNOUNCED A SEVERER WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

THAN PRESIDENT FORD. HE IS OPPOSED TO RE-PROCESSING AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF ENRICHMENT FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, IT IS SAID THAT HE INTENDS NOT TO SUPPLY ATOMIC ENERGY TECHNIQUES AND NUCLEAR FUEL OF THE US TO COUNTRIES CARRYING OUT RE-PROCESSING INDEPENDENTLY.

6. THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO MATERIALIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FROM THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. HOWEVER, IF IT DOES NOT OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THE US SIDE, THERE MAY ARISE A SITUATION WHERE THE US WILL STOP SUPPLYING ENRICHED URANIUM TO OUR COUNTRY, AND THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HASTEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US. IN ITS NOTE TO THE US, THE GOVERNMENT WILL EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(1) OUR COUNTRY IS SHOWING CLEARLY, IN THE FORM OF THE THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES, THE POLICY OF NOT HOLDING NUCLEAR ENERGY AS WEAPONS; (2) PREVENTION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS IMPORTANT, BUT PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY OUGHT NOT TO BE RESTRICTED MARKEDLY; AND (3) IT IS NECESSRY FOR OUR COUNTRY TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AS THE BIGGEST ENERGY-CONSUMING COUNTRY NEXT TO THE US, AND IT CANNOT BUT ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE OF ITS OWN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO PROSPECTS THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ACCEPT OUR COUNTRY'S REQUEST EASILY, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE US OVER THIS PROBLEM ARE LIKELY TO HAVE ROUGH SAILING. UNQUOTE
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